

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION**

MATHEW MAYO, §
§
Plaintiff, §
§
v. § CIVIL ACTION No. 2:19-cv-378
§
AMERICAN SECURITY §
INSURANCE COMPANY, §
§
Defendant. §

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendant American Security Insurance Company (“American Security”) files this Notice of Removal against Plaintiff Mathew Mayo (“Plaintiff”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This case is removable because there is complete diversity between the parties in this litigation and the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00.

II. COMMENCEMENT AND SERVICE

2. On November 5, 2019, Plaintiff commenced this action by filing an Original Petition in the 28th Judicial District Court of Nueces County, Texas, styled Cause No. 2019DCV-5501-A, *Mathew Mayo v. Assurant and American Security Insurance Company*.¹

3. American Security received the service of process via certified mail on November 18, 2019.²

¹ See Ex. B-1, Plaintiff’s Original Petition.

² See Ex. A, Executed Process, at pp. 1–4.

4. American Security timely filed an answer in state court on December 12, 2019.³

Plaintiff non-suited Assurant, Inc. before the filing of this Notice of Removal.⁴

5. This Notice of Removal is filed within thirty days of the receipt, through service or otherwise, of Plaintiff's Original Petition and is timely filed under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1). This Notice of Removal is also filed within one year of the commencement of this action, and is thus timely pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c).

III. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL

6. American Security is entitled to remove the state court action to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446 because this action is a civil action involving an amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000.00 between parties with diverse citizenship.

IV. DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP

7. This is an action with complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiff and Defendant.

8. Plaintiff is a citizen of Texas.⁵

9. Defendant American Security is a foreign insurance company.⁶

10. No change of citizenship has occurred for the parties since commencement of the state court action. Accordingly, diversity of citizenship exists among the remaining parties to the litigation.

³ See Ex. B-2, Defendant's Original Answer. By the parties' written agreement, Defendant was given until December 16, 2019 to file an answer.

⁴ See Ex. B-3, Notice of Nonsuit.

⁵ See Ex. B-1, at p. 1; Ex. G-1, Accurint Comprehensive Address Report, at p. 2 (demonstrating that Plaintiff has been domiciled in Texas since at least May 2004).

⁶ See Ex. H, Affidavit of Carmen Collazo.

V. AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY

11. In the Fifth Circuit, a defendant who is served with a pleading requesting an indeterminate amount of damages has two options. The defendant may (1) remove the case immediately, if it can reasonably conclude that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, or (2) the defendant may wait until the plaintiff expressly pleads that the amount in controversy exceeds that amount or serves some “other paper” indicating that the amount in controversy exceeds that amount. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1446(b)(3), (c)(3)(A); *Bosky v. Kroger Texas LP*, 288 F.3d 208, *passim* (5th Cir. 2002). Here, American Security was first able to ascertain this case was removable upon the receipt of Plaintiff’s Original Petition wherein Plaintiff asserted that he seeks monetary relief over \$1,000,000.00.⁷ Plaintiff also submitted an estimate to American Security claiming \$356,782.95 in economic damages.⁸ Thus, Plaintiff’s Original Petition establishes that the total amount in controversy in the action exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, and this Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

VI. VENUE

12. Venue lies in the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1446(a) because Plaintiff filed the state court action in this judicial district and division.

VII. CONSENT TO REMOVAL

13. No Consent to Removal is necessary as American Security is the only named defendant in this lawsuit. Plaintiff non-suited Assurant, Inc. (named only as “Assurant” in the petition) prior to the filing of this Notice of Removal.⁹

⁷ See Ex. B-1, Plaintiff’s Original Petition, at p. 3.

⁸ See Ex. I, Plaintiff’s Damages Estimate.

⁹ See Ex. B-3.

VIII. NOTICE

14. American Security will give notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal to all parties of record pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). American Security will also file with the clerk of the state court, and will serve upon Plaintiff's counsel, a notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal.

IX. STATE COURT PLEADINGS

15. Copies of all state court pleadings and orders are attached to this Notice of Removal.

X. EXHIBITS TO NOTICE OF REMOVAL

16. The following documents are attached to this Notice as corresponding numbered exhibits:

- A. All Executed Process in this case;
- B. Pleadings asserting causes of action, e.g., petitions, counterclaims, cross actions, third-party actions, interventions, and all answers to such pleadings;
 - 1. Plaintiff's Original Petition;
 - 2. American Security Insurance Company's Original Answer;
 - 3. Notice of Nonsuit Without Prejudice
- C. Docket Sheet;
- D. An index of matters being filed;
- E. A list of all counsel of record;
- F. Civil Cover Sheet;
- G. Affidavit of Brian A. Srubar;

1. Accurint Comprehensive Address Report for Mathew Mayo;
- H. Affidavit of Carmen Collazo;
- I. Plaintiff's Damages Estimate.

XI. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Defendant American Security Insurance Company, pursuant to the statutes cited herein, removes this action from the 28th Judicial District Court of Nueces County, Texas to this Court.

Dated: December 12, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

MCDOWELL HETHERINGTON LLP

By: /s/ Bradley J. Aiken

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on December 12, 2019, on the following counsel of record by Certified Mail:

CM/RRR No. 70160910000027735808

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